

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A device for handling at least one optical disc which comprises two main surfaces and a circumferential edge interconnecting said main surfaces, which device is provided at least with a loading mechanism, characterized in that the loading mechanism is provided with means which can be fastened during operation against at least two positions on the circumferential edge of the optical disc to be positioned in the loading mechanism, which positions are located at a distance from one another.

2. (original) A device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the optical disc is provided with a substrate layer and a protective plate which each comprise two main surfaces and a circumferential edge interconnecting the main surfaces, while the loading mechanism is provided with at least one U-shaped holder, which U-shaped holder comprises two legs and a bridge interconnecting the legs, wherein during operation the legs of the holder can be fastened against at least two positions, situated at a distance from one another, of the circumferential edge of the

substrate layer that can be positioned in the loading mechanism or of the protective plate.

3. (original) A device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the loading mechanism is provided with two U-shaped holders, such that during operation the legs of a first U-shaped holder can be fastened against the circumferential edge of the protective plate and the legs of a second U-shaped holder can be fastened against the circumferential edge of the substrate layer during operation, while the bridges of the two U-shaped holders are connected to one another with hinging possibility about a pivot axis extending parallel to the bridges.

4. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 2 ~~or 3~~, characterized in that the loading mechanism is provided with two U-shaped holders, such that during operation the legs of a first U-shaped holder can be fastened against the circumferential edge of the protective plate and the legs of a second U-shaped holder can be fastened against the circumferential edge of the substrate layer during operation, while the bridges of the two U-shaped holders are pivotable about a pivot axis extending transversely to the bridges.

5. (original) A device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the optical disc is provided with a substrate layer and a protective layer, which substrate layer comprises two main surfaces and a circumferential edge interconnecting the main surfaces, while the loading mechanism is provided with at least two pulleys, an endless belt arranged around the pulleys, and a guide element, such that during operation the circumferential edge of the substrate layer that can be positioned in the loading mechanism can be positioned between the guide element and the endless belt.

6. (original) A method of handling at least one optical disc which comprises two main surfaces and a circumferential edge interconnecting said main surfaces, whereby the optical disc is inserted into a device comprising a loading mechanism, characterized in that means located in the loading mechanism are fastened against at least two positions on the circumferential edge of the optical disc, said positions being located at a distance from one another, by which means the optical disc is displaced into and from the loading mechanism.

7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the optical disc is provided with a substrate layer and a protective plate which each comprise two main surfaces and a

circumferential edge interconnecting the main surfaces, while the loading mechanism is provided with means which are fastened against two positions of the circumferential edge of the substrate layer or of the protective plate, which positions are situated at a distance from one another, whereupon the protective plate and the substrate layer are separated from one another by said means.

8. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the protective plate is pivoted with respect to the substrate layer about a pivot axis that extends parallel to the main surfaces by said means.

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8~~, characterized in that said means swivel the protective plate with respect to the substrate layer about a swivel axis that extends transversely to the main surfaces.

10. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the claims 7, 8, and 9~~ claim 7, characterized in that said means displace the substrate layer with respect to the protective plate in a direction that extends parallel to the main surfaces.